

gay COMMUNITY NEWS

SEPTEMBER 2-8, 1990
VOLUME 18
NO 7

BIPAD: 65498
\$1.25

FOR SEVENTEEN YEARS, THE LESBIAN AND GAY WEEKLY

Anti-Jesse Helms boycotts gain momentum

Internal debates in the lesbian and gay community question the choice of boycott targets and the economical effectiveness of such strategies, as the right-wing cries 'foul play'

By Chris Nealon

WASHINGTON — Despite right-wing accusations of illegality, and internal debate within lesbian and gay communities, the boycott of Miller beer and Marlboro cigarettes continues to spread around the U.S. The companies that make the two products are owned by the Philip Morris Corporation, which ranks among the largest contributors to homophobic Sen. Jesse Helms (R-N.C.). The boycott, which was declared April 26 by ACT UP/D.C., has been endorsed so far by bars and restaurants in 18 cities. Washington, San Francisco and Dallas have received the most attention as nerve centers for the anti-Helms campaign.

The action initially targeted only Marlboro, but ACT UP/San Francisco expanded its efforts to include Miller in July, and other cities quickly followed suit. Participation in the boycott has increased rapidly since that time; although the addition of Miller has also generated debate in gay and lesbian communities because of the perception that Miller is a pro-gay company.

Meanwhile, supporters of the boycott were momentarily startled Aug. 6 when the Conservative Campaign Fund, a political action committee (PAC), filed a complaint with the Federal Elections Commission (FEC) charging that the boycott violated laws governing Federal election campaigns. The grievance, which cited the Dallas Gay Alliance, the Dallas Tavern Guild, the Tarrant County (Texas) Tavern Guild, and ACT UP chapters in Washington and San Francisco, charged that the boycott constitutes an illegal interference in Helms' 1990 re-election campaign. Two members of ACT UP were also named in the complaint.

"We are exercising our First Amendment right to free speech," said Lee Bush, a member of ACT UP/D.C., who told GCN that boycott supporters were "absolutely not" in violation of FEC regulations. Bush added that he thought it was important to "speak the truth" about Helms and the sources of his funding, and that such speaking out was a legal activity. "People have a right to participate in the political process," he said.

William Waybourn, director of the Dallas Gay Alliance, agreed with Bush that the boycott did not violate FEC regulations. He dismissed the charges of the Conservative Campaign Fund as "an intimidation tactic," remarking that he thought Philip Morris "had to do something to stem the tide" of the anti-Helms campaign. In fact, Waybourn added, he felt that many lesbians and gay men who

were not initially in support of the boycott have since joined the effort because they viewed the grievance as a kind of harassment. "The FEC complaint has only generated more momentum," he said.

Internal Debate

Some of the most persistent criticism of the action has come from lesbians and gay men themselves. A frequent complaint, Bush said, is that Miller is a poor target for the anti-Helms campaign because the beer company has donated money to gay and AIDS service organizations. "Some people think we're attacking a friend," said Bush.

Waybourn, however, said that Miller has thus far primarily donated to mainstream AIDS service organizations. He added that organizers of the boycott had received a copy of a Miller company inter-office memo dated Aug. 2 that listed AIDS and pro-gay donations. The memo, Waybourn said, revealed that most donations to specifically lesbian and gay organizations were token gestures when compared to donations to other groups. He cited Miller's \$15,000 gift to the Pediatric AIDS Foundation, a mainstream health organization, and compared it to a \$250 Miller donation to the Hetrick-Martin Institute, a long-standing service organization for gay youth.

Bush also said that some gay men and lesbians argue that it makes no sense to boycott a single tobacco company like Marlboro because several tobacco companies support Helms, and because all tobacco companies are morally questionable, given the widely documented health hazards associated with smoking. His response to that argument, he said, was that boycott supporters were simply choosing the largest tobacco company with the largest Helms donations as their target.

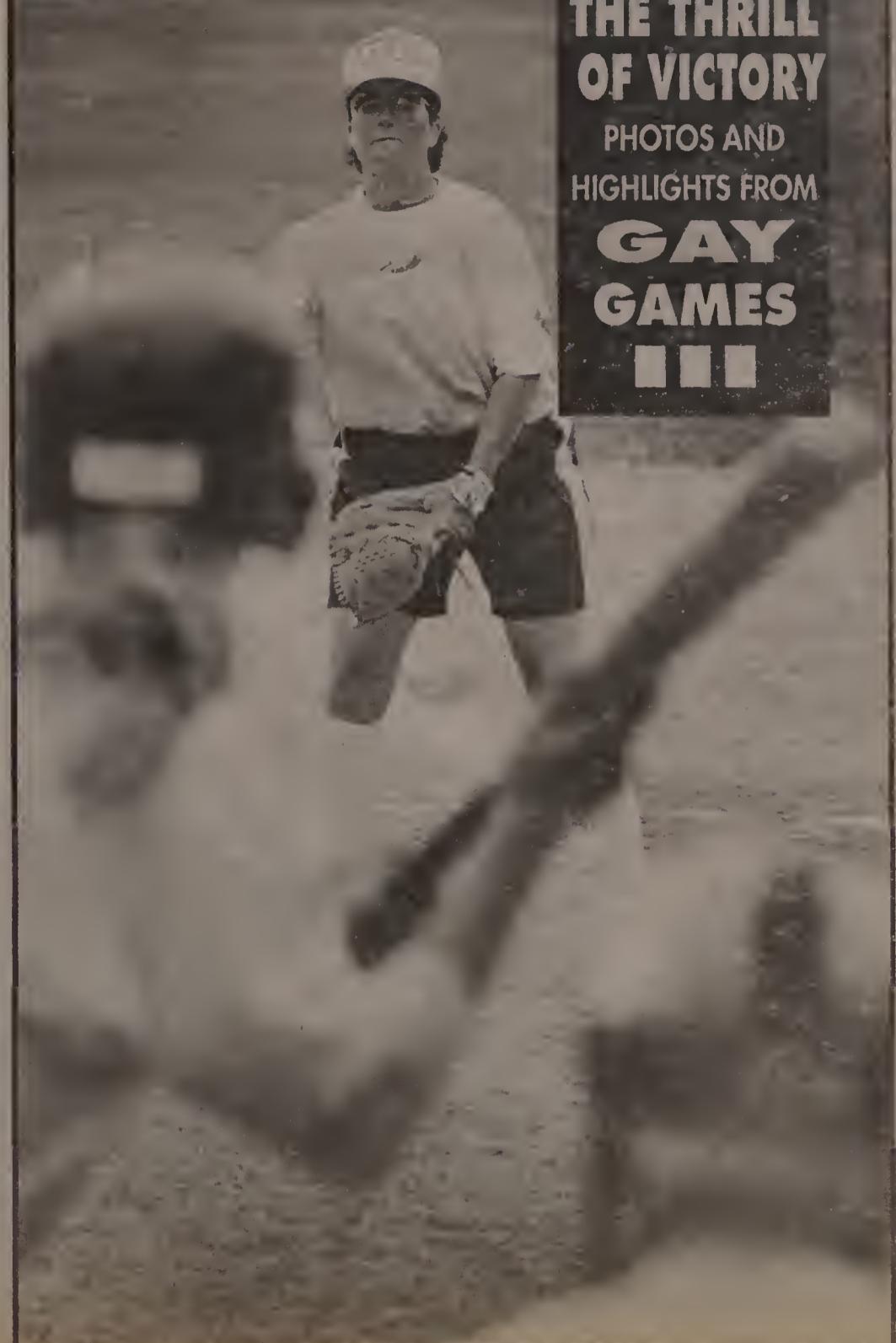
Impact in North Carolina

Janelle Lavelle, spokesperson for Senate Vote '90, a lesbian- and gay-led organization working against Helms in North Carolina, said she thought the boycott has a mostly symbolic effect in Helms' home state. "It's moral support for the work we're doing here," she told GCN. She added that although there is significant support for the boycott in North Carolina, including the endorsements of non-gay establishments, she thought that boycotts generally need a few years to take hold and to have an economic impact. At this point, Lavelle said, "I don't think it's hurting Helms a damn bit."

Helms is running this fall against Harvey

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THE THRILL
OF VICTORY
PHOTOS AND
HIGHLIGHTS FROM
GAY
GAMES



Navy loses another gay-related case

Civil libertarians hail the decision as one in a series of incremental steps towards changing the military's anti-gay policy

By Chris Nealon

WASHINGTON — Civil rights lawyers claimed a victory for First Amendment rights here, as the Navy backed down from its earlier measures against a former Marine sergeant who spoke against the U.S. military's discrimination against gay men and lesbians. At a July 18 hearing, the Naval Board for Corrections awarded back pay and restored the good-service record of Christine Hilinski, who lost her assignment after she testified on behalf of a lesbian colleague who was facing a court martial.

Hilinski testified in a 1988 court-martial trial that Sgt. Cheryl Jameson was well qualified and that her sexual orientation had not affected her work in any way. Jameson had been charged at a Parris Island, S.C., military base with having homosexual sex, which is grounds for dismissal from the military.

Nan Hunter, who counseled Hilinski on behalf of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), told GCN that the Navy's decision was significant because Hilinski's complaint against the Navy was handled not by civilian courts but by the Navy itself. The distinction is important for women and men who currently serve in the armed forces, said Hunter, because it demonstrates that the military is willing to take the right to free speech seriously.

"It's highly significant that the military itself admitted that a soldier has the right to disagree with a policy and to express that disagreement," she said.

Hunter added that the decision could have a political impact on military life. Many military personnel, she said, are not in favor of the armed forces' policy forbidding lesbians and gay men from entering the service. "We know that there's enormous opposition to the policy within the military," she said. "Many people, both gay and straight, think the policy is stupid."

William Rubenstein, director of the

Lesbian and Gay Rights Project of the ACLU, agreed with Hunter that the Hilinski victory is important for men and women in the military, saying that it will allow them "to be more honest about gay people" in their midst. Furthermore, Rubenstein said, the opposition to the anti-gay policy within the ranks of the armed forces undermines the theory that the presence of lesbians and gay men in the military would ruin morale.

"Putting up fences"

Meanwhile, another free-speech case against the military may soon receive a court decision. Dusty Pruitt, a former Army Reserve captain, was discharged after she gave an interview with the Los Angeles Times in 1983 describing her life as a lesbian and a pastor in the gay Metropolitan Community Church. Pruitt has charged the Army with violating her First Amendment rights and her right to privacy. Her lawyers say they expect a decision shortly in California's Ninth Circuit court, where Pruitt's case has been pending since 1988.

Cases like Pruitt's and Hilinski's, Rubenstein said, provide legal steps towards the eventual demolition of the military's anti-gay stance. The best tactic in assaulting the policy, he said, is to chip away at it in "indirect cases" that set limits on discrimination. "We're saying, 'Even though you discriminate, there are bounds to that,'" said Rubenstein, commenting that using indirect cases to challenge discrimination "starts putting up fences" around the policy.

Rubenstein said he believed that a gradual approach was necessary in fighting the military's discrimination policy because "a direct, constitutional, complete victory is not going to come out of the current federal court system."

Hunter agreed that incremental legal challenges to the military's discrimination against lesbians and gay men are more politically

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Quote of the week

"Most lesbians accept me. Maybe they wish, if they had their ultimate preference...."

"Lesbians know I'm not going to betray them by going on television and saying, 'It was just a phase.'"

— Women's music icon Holly Near, in an interview in the *Boston Globe*. Near was in Boston to promote her new autobiography, *Fire in the Rain...Singer in the Storm*. In that book, according to the *Globe*, Near explains that even though she has been involved with both men and women, she does not identify as bisexual because, "I am too closely linked to the political perspectives of lesbian feminism. My lesbianism is not linked to sexual preference."

Domestic partnership okayed in New York

ITHACA, N.Y. — Activists here celebrated a victory Aug. 1 as the city's Common Council enacted a comprehensive domestic partnership ordinance, the first in New York state. The measure, which passed in a 7-2 vote, creates a legal status for lesbian, gay, and unmarried heterosexual couples that parallels marriage.

"We're all elated," said Melinda Baumann, one of the activists who brought the measure before the Council, "[that] the ordinance passed with so much support from the council and the Ithaca community."

Ithaca residents who meet the qualifications for domestic partnership will be able to register with the city clerk for \$20. Partners may legally absolve their relationship for \$5.

In order to qualify for partnership status, a couple must share a primary residence and declare that they intend to continue living together indefinitely. Each partner must be 18 or older and unmarried.

Domestic partnership ordinances have also been enacted in Seattle; Madison, Wis.; Takoma Park, Md.; and in Berkeley, West Hollywood, Santa Cruz, and Los Angeles, Calif.

San Francisco activists are currently mounting a campaign for a partnership measure, Proposition K; and lesbian and gay lobbyists in Seattle are fighting a ballot measure, no. 35, that would repeal the city's partnership ordinance.

Chris Nealon

Gay PWA wins round in court battle

CAMDEN, N.J. — African-American gay PWA Gregory Smith, sentenced to 12 1/2 to 25 years for "attempted murder" on the basis of claims that he bit a prison guard (see GCN, June 17), won a postponement Aug. 28 in his case against two Camden prison guards for assault and harassment.

Representing himself, Smith convinced Camden Municipal Judge A. Morton Shapiro that since his lawyers were on vacation the case should be postponed. According to Lois Lax, a member of ACT UP/Philadelphia and the Justice for Gregory Smith Coalition, supporters of Smith hope that the trial against the guards will be delayed until after the completion of Smith's appeal of his attempted murder conviction.

Activists from Philadelphia to New York have planned two major actions during September. On Sept. 20, Smith's lawyers, Ron Kuby and William Kunkler of the Center for Constitutional Rights, and Judy Greenspan of the National Prisoner Project of the American Civil Liberties Union, will speak at a press conference in Philadelphia. On Sept. 29, lesbian/gay, AIDS, and prisoners' rights activists from New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania will demonstrate at the New Jersey state capitol in Trenton. Busses are currently being organized for New York and Philadelphia. For more information, call ACT UP/Philadelphia at (215) 222-8815.

Marc Stein

Iowans defend gay books

MUSCATINE, Iowa — A July town meeting about the presence of gay books in the

local library turned out 75 residents. John Fifer and Jerry Henderson objected to their \$17 in tax money going to such books as *The Male Couple's Guide to Living Together*, according to The Washington Blade.

Only one other participant sided with Fifer and Henderson, but 20 spoke out against banning the books. One high school math teacher summed up his feelings with "if you don't want to read something then don't check the damn thing out."

Susan Schmitz

Fight for gay rights heats up in Florida

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. — The Roman Catholic Church officially entered the fracas over Broward County's gay rights ordinance, as Archbishop Edward A. McCarthy issued a letter in August urging Catholics to vote the measure down.

In the letter, which was sent to 49 Catholic parishes in Broward, McCarthy wrote that "parents would be defenseless to protect their children from the influence and example of the homosexual life style of teachers and counselors" if the ballot question were to pass.

Although activists in Broward were initially optimistic that the measure would pass, the push for lesbian and gay rights has taken on more ominous overtones, with both gay lobbyists and right-wing Christians reporting hate mail and death threats (see GCN, Aug. 18 and Aug. 31).

Voters in Broward will decide Sept. 4 whether or not to accept the measure, which would amend the local human rights ordinance to include sexual orientation among the categories legally protected against discrimination. If the amendment passes, it will be only the second in the U.S. to survive a ballot vote, after a 1987 Boulder, Colo., referendum.

Chris Nealon

Activists hold anti-Nazi rally

SPOKANE, Wash. — A broad coalition that included many lesbians and gay men organized an anti-Nazi demonstration here July 15 in opposition to a white supremacist convention being held 30 miles away in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. The Rally for Racial Equality drew about 200 people from labor, feminist, student, lesbian and gay, Jewish, and people of color communities.

According to Seattle Gay News, the nearby annual Aryan Nation convention featured armed neo-Nazis guarding the compound where the event was held. Local television reporters spoke of the "violent" atmosphere, and were ordered by Aryan Nation members to stop filming and leave the area.

Laura Briggs

Course offered for gay men considering children

BOSTON — The Fenway Community Health Center is beginning an eight-week course to examine the personal, legal and logistical implications of being a gay father for gay men who have considered parenting.

Each session will combine presentations with discussions of participants' concerns. Guest speakers will address such issues as alternative parenting options, legalities, HIV, and finances. The group will be facilitated by Robb Johnson, an HIV educator, and Jason Schneider, father of a three-year-old daughter.

Participants may register for one or both of two consecutive four-week sessions; the second session will build upon the first. The cost is \$5 per meeting.

A free introductory panel will be held Sept. 10, 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the Lesbian and Gay Service Center, 338 Newbury Street. For more information and specific dates of the courses, contact Robb Johnson at 267-0900 (days) or Jason Schneider at 522-2289 (evenings).

Kelly Gaines

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Restrictive abortion laws struck down in Guam and Pennsylvania

Two federal courts overturn anti-abortion measures. While pro-choice forces are pleased with the rulings, they fear that the Pennsylvania legislation will be appealed to the Supreme Court - where some justices eagerly await a test case for Roe v. Wade

By Laura Briggs

READING, Penn. — Federal judges in Pennsylvania and Guam overturned restrictive abortion laws in late August, but the pro-choice celebration was muted by fears that a successful appeal to the Supreme Court could be a basis to overturn *Roe v. Wade*, the 1973 case that established constitutional protection for the right to abortion.

The Aug. 23 decision on the constitutionality of the Guam law announced simply that Guam, as a United States territory, is governed by rulings of the Supreme Court, including *Roe*.

The Guam legislation would have made it illegal for women to obtain or seek an abortion, and for a doctor to perform one. It went so far as to prohibit individuals from providing information on how or where to get an abortion. (American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) lawyer Janet Benshoof was in fact arrested by Guam officials for reading abortion services' listings in a phone book from nearby Hawaii at a pro-choice rally last March. With the decision last week that the law is unconstitutional, charges against Benshoof have been formally dropped.)

Guam's territorial government has decided to let the decision rest, but Pennsylvania officials have vowed to appeal an Aug. 24 ruling here. An appeal would first take the case to federal appeals court, and then to the Supreme Court. With some Supreme Court Justices, notably Anthony Scalia, actively advocating a reversal of constitutional protection for abortion, an appeal could provide the basis for the high court to rule on far more than the relatively narrow issues covered in the Pennsylvania law.

The now-overturned Pennsylvania legislation included a mandatory 24-hour waiting period prior to obtaining an abortion, and a requirement that a married woman notify her husband of her intention to abort a fetus. It also required that teenagers obtain the "informed consent" of a parent, including a face-to-face meeting with a physician, and that these conditions can only be bypassed under a very restrictive definition of a "medical emergency."

Supreme Court

According to Ellen Goetz, staff attorney of the ACLU Reproductive Freedom Project, all of these restrictions have been previously overturned by the Supreme Court in a case involving the 1982 Pennsylvania Abortion Control Act. ("It's clear that under *Roe*, these restrictions are illegal," Goetz told GCN.) Despite that ruling, the Pennsylvania legislature passed the same restrictive legislation again in two separate moves, in 1988 and 1989.

Two of the provisions that were overturned—spousal notification and the 24-hour waiting period—were passed in the flurry of state legislative activity following the July, 1989 Supreme Court Webster decision, which many interpreted as permission for states to increase restrictions on abortion. Goetz said that while legislatures throughout the U.S. attempted to pass anti-abortion laws in the year following Webster—she likened the pro-choice effort to putting out brush fires that keep starting in different places—only Pennsylvania seems likely to present a direct challenge to *Roe*.

The recent resignation of Justice William Brennan may have a major impact on how abortion cases will be decided. Goetz declined to comment on Bush nominee David Souter, but said that, "Whoever is appointed to fill Justice Brennan's seat, it is almost impossible for that person to be as good a friend to the civil rights and reproductive rights communities as Justice Brennan has been."

Allies in unexpected places

In his decision in the Pennsylvania case, Judge Daniel Huyett of the 3rd Circuit Court

wrote that, "For now, at least, the law of abortion remains undisturbed, because only the United States Supreme Court has the power to change it. But those individuals who have felt secure over the past seventeen years with the fundamental right, and the protections which flow therefrom, guaranteed by *Roe v. Wade*, would be wise to heed Justice Blackmun's admonition—the signs are evident and very ominous, and a chill wind blows." Huyett said that if *Roe* is overturned, the potential result for women, particularly poor women, would be "disastrous and tragic."

Huyett, a Nixon appointee, ruled for anti-abortionists in 1982 when these same provisions came before him, according to Goetz. She said that years of presenting pro-choice testimony before the judge had transformed him into an ally.

Huyett agreed with pro-choice and feminist arguments down the line in his ruling on the anti-abortion legislation. He wrote at length about the effect on battered women of the husband notification section. He agreed with the ACLU that "informed consent" by a teenager's parent would unfairly drag a young woman through a court hearing if her parents, for whatever reason, declined to meet with her physician. Huyett also concurred that limiting medical reasons for abortion to "a serious risk of substantial and irreversible impairment of a major bodily function" unduly limited the definition of health.

Between a rock and a hard place

While the Pennsylvania law may give anti-abortionists the ammunition they have sought to change the high court's abortion position, allowing it to stand without legal challenge could also have provided a national precedent permitting state legislatures to limit abortion rights without regard for the Supreme Court.

"Who the hell wants to be the case that overturns *Roe*—but we had to fight it," said Pat Jardine, vice-president of the Pennsylvania chapter of the National Organization for Women (NOW). "They had us between a rock and a hard place," she told GCN.

Jardine also said that the overturned provisions would have hit poor women the hardest. "If you are poor and you don't have access to transportation, if you have to find a baby-sitter for the kids, and have to face losing a couple of days' wages" it is more difficult to make the two trips to a clinic that the 24-hour waiting period entails. She noted further that of all the anti-choice legislation that has been proposed in Pennsylvania, the only restriction that has gone into effect has been the suspension of Medicaid funding for abortion.

Pro-choice forces in Pennsylvania have mobilized in response to legal and legislative threats, but Jardine is discouraged about whether they can continue to do so. "I'm worried. It's like the little girl who cried wolf once too often—we keep saying that there is this major threat to abortion rights, but then there is always another court case—most middle class women have not felt the impact."

She added, "I've been talking to people who have been in the struggle for a long time, and they're tired."

However, Jardine insists that pro-choice activists are also determined. "One thing is certain: we're not going to give up, we're not going to go away," she said. "Women have fought like hell to get us to this place in history, and we're going to make sure there's some thread to hang on to for women who come after us."

□ filed from Boston



'Too bad AIDS isn't oil'

ACT UP/Rhode Island protests against Bush's appearance at a Republican fundraiser

By Peter Cohen

NORTH KINGSTOWN, R.I. — Over a dozen AIDS activists from ACT UP/Rhode Island joined with members of other progressive organizations Aug. 20 to protest the presence of President George Bush at a \$125-\$1250 per person state Republican Party fundraiser. While the demonstrators were buoyed by the recent success of a similar protest by ACT UP/New York (see GCN, Aug. 5), and echoed many of the concerns raised in that action, they found that many of their criticisms of Bush administration policy were shaped by recent U.S. actions in the Middle East, as well as by the AIDS funding bill the president signed only two days before his Rhode Island appearance. (The measure allows for appropriations of "emergency" federal funds to cities and towns hardest hit by AIDS.)

While praising Bush for signing the recent measure, an ACT UP flyer distributed to the media and Bush well-wishers criticized the president for having "done no more than attach his signature to the work of the congressional supporters of the legislation, and this after having shown little support for the bill before it reached his desk."

The flyer also denounced the federal government for once again relying on measures

that place the responsibility for coming up with solutions to the AIDS emergency on city and state governments. It called on Bush to organize a national response to the epidemic, especially in light of Bush's demonstrated "willingness to orchestrate such a response to the crisis in the Middle East, and to fund such a response to the tune of \$1.2 billion just through the end of September."

"Too bad AIDS isn't oil," protester Miriam Reumann told GCN. "Otherwise Bush would have sent an army after it from the outset."

Although protesters met with a generally cooperative response from local and state police, they expressed considerable displeasure that they were required to stay behind yellow police lines approximately 100 feet past the entrance to the Quidnessett Country Club, where the fundraiser was being held. The activists pointed out that a group of supportive onlookers was allowed to stand in an area along the path of the motorcade. Once Bush entered the country club, however, protesters moved themselves to a spot along the motorcade's return route and met with no police resistance.

"On Bush's way in, I think the police were a little intimidated, which is probably why they didn't let us move to where the other people were," said ACT UP's Marc Cohen.

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AIDS conference blasted in Puerto Rico

Activists in San Juan decry 'political rhetoric' at the annual International Society for AIDS Education gathering

By Guy-Oreido Weston

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico — During the Aug. 6 opening of the fourth annual International Society for AIDS Education conference here, Gov. Rafael Hernandez Colon affirmed his commitment to fighting AIDS by announcing a comprehensive plan for education, care and treatment. But local AIDS activists, disturbed by the governor's "political rhetoric," and by the conference itself, interrupted its concluding session on Aug. 8 by announcing a protest rally.

During the rally, which slowed traffic in front of the conference site for 45 minutes, Jose Toro, executive director of the AIDS Foundation of Puerto Rico, said in an interview that the governor's plan is "not in effect and there's no money to pay for it." He added, "There's a lot of talk about plans that never materialize."

The governor's plan, handled by the newly established Central Office of AIDS Affairs, is supposed to expand and coordinate educational, care and treatment efforts. In addition, it is expected to administer a program of "complete prophylaxis," preventive treatment for asymptomatic HIV-positive individuals as well as for people who have already experienced AIDS-related illnesses.

A spokesperson for the Central Office of AIDS Affairs said that the office is "currently in a process of recruiting and training personnel," and that "bids for providing AZT and aerosolized pentamidine are being received from pharmaceutical companies and laboratories." The spokesperson said that these ser-

vices should be available when the office becomes fully operational in October.

Moises Agosto, of the Activists United Against AIDS, said his group was not impressed with the Colon address because the governor's administration's response to AIDS has been "insensitive and indifferent."

"The government has not developed an effective plan for AIDS prevention or treatment," said Agosto. "People do not know there are alternatives. They do not know that drugs like AZT and pentamidine can prolong life. The government is allowing people to die in the streets unnecessarily."

Agosto added that the rally was the beginning of a series of events being held to organize an ACT UP chapter in Puerto Rico.

Daniel Rivera, a co-organizer of the rally, explained that the group was also protesting the conference itself. "This is an international conference, but there are no interpreters and all of the material is in English," he said. "This is a conference about education, but the Puerto Rican Teachers' [Association] has not been invited. It's ridiculous."

Other complaints about the conference included the lack of participation of persons with AIDS, the lack of focus on AIDS-related problems relevant to Puerto Rico, its cost, and a lack of focus on AIDS as it relates to gay men.

Dr. Donna Richter of the University of South Carolina-based organization that sponsored the conference, said that "the issues raised were addressed, clearly heard, and will be taken into account in the planning of

Continued on page 7

COMMUNITY VOICES

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All letter and "Speaking Out" contributions must be TYPED and DOUBLE-SPACED. Letters can be NO LONGER THAN TWO PAGES. "Speaking Out" contributions can be NO LONGER THAN FOUR PAGES and require a short (one to two sentence) biographical note about the author for inclusion at the end of the article.

Because GCN wishes to encourage dialogue and a diverse representation of perspectives on the letters pages, printing of "Speaking Out" contributions received from authors who have had other "Speaking Outs" appear in GCN recently may be postponed temporarily.

For editing purposes, it is helpful to be able to contact you easily — please enclose your name, address, and daytime phone number with your letter or article. Thanks.

Send to: Community Voices/Speaking Out, GCN, 62 Berkeley Street, Boston, MA 02116.

The opinions expressed in "Speaking Out" contributions are those of the author and are not intended to represent the views of the GCN staff, Board or membership.

Be on the lookout

Dear GCN:

In many copies of GCN this week appears a survey questionnaire for gay and bisexual men. The survey is being distributed by the Community Education Unit of AIDS ACTION Committee. If you don't get a copy in this paper, look for one from your local community group, at area bars and clubs, or at the gay and lesbian service center.

The survey asks questions about: where gay and bisexual men in the Boston area are getting their information about AIDS, the impact of AIDS on their lives, and their feelings and ideas about AIDS, safer sex, condoms, and the HIV test. This information is extremely important to us! We want to learn more about the gay community's attitudes and behaviors, and we want to learn the best ways to reach gay men with information about AIDS and safer sex.

If you are a gay or bisexual man, you can

make a real contribution to the community by filling out and sending back the survey. Lesbians can help us by giving copies of the survey they get in this newspaper or elsewhere to gay or bisexual male friends.

Help us better inform the gay community about AIDS and safer sex. Together, as gay men and lesbians, we can make a difference in the fight against AIDS.

Sincerely,
Jack Vondras
Manager of Community Education
AIDS ACTION Committee
Boston, Mass.

News from Poland

Dear GCN:

Your report on Lech Waleska pledging to "eliminate" lesbians and gays (as well as drug users and other "marginalized elements") from Polish society confirms what Donald Catalano and I learned when we attended the 2nd International Eastern European Lesbian-Gay Conference in Warsaw in April 1988.

At that time Slavek Starosta, then co-chair of the Warsaw Homosexual Organization, reported that emerging Polish gay groups were the targets of Communist Party/Government efforts at intimidation (e.g., the latter planted a newspaper story which warned that Polish gay groups were consorting with western elements, namely the International Lesbian Gay Association).

BUT, according to Starosta, Polish lesbians and gays would be jumping out of the frying pan, into the fire, if they were to seek support from Solidarity (its mentor is the Polish Roman Catholic hierarchy).

However, despite being caught between the devil and the deep blue sea, Polish gays have demonstrated great survival skills. For example, for the 1988 International Conference they chose to meet in one of the local Party headquarters in Warsaw, on the rationale that "if you want to make love in an automobile without attracting attention, park under a street light" (apparently that strategy knows no international boundaries).

Another example: Several years ago, as required by law, the national Polish gay federation submitted an application to become officially registered with the government. They waited and waited and waited. When I was in Poland in May 1990 I learned the following: As soon as the present government came to power, official recognition was granted.

Sincerely yours,
Richard Steinman
Portland, Maine

Leaping to extremes

Dear GCN:

It was depressing to see Kathleen Marotta's letter (in the July 22-28, 1990 issue) attacking one of the most powerful and inspiring pieces you have recently run: Michael Bronski's essay on "Outing." Marotta's patronizing and pathologizing rhetoric of "maturity" and "sickness" blindly follows the lead of straight commentators, who miss the point that no one is talking about pulling terrified, defenseless high school kids out of their closets. No one. This is a totally false issue that distracts from the real issue, which is powerful, secure adults who refuse to come out of the closet to help less fortunate gay men and lesbians (like terrified high school kids). Many of the prime targets of "outing" even actively promote a homophobic agenda to deflect suspicion about themselves. Others perpetuate society's heterosexism by faking straight love-affairs for the press. These people are the hypocrites (her term), because they get all the benefits of heterosexist culture while also benefiting from the kind of gay community created in the face of enormous opposition by people like Bronski and the other writers at GCN.

I generally hesitate to leap to the extremes of Third Reich analogies, but since Marotta has, let me point out that there is no comparison between activists who would "out" closet cases and the Nazis who made homosexuals wear pink triangles. The real analogy for closet cases would be collaborationist Jews who turned their back on their own community, with lethal results.

So please, Michael Bronski and GCN, don't let the Kathleen Marottas of the world shrieking in defense of their closets turn you back from your courageous public stance. It is time we held the hypocrites accountable to our community.

Chris Reed
Brunswick, Maine

Gay Community News is produced by a collective dedicated to providing coverage of events and news in the interest of gay and lesbian liberation. The collective consists of a paid staff of ten, a general membership of volunteers, and a board of directors elected by the membership.

Opinions reflected in "editorials" represent the views of the paid staff collective. Signed letters and columns represent the views and opinions of the authors only. We encourage all readers to send us comments, criticism, and information, and to volunteer and become members.

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Gay Community News is published weekly (except for the last week of April, August and December), by the Bromfield Street Educational Foundation, Inc., a non-profit, tax-exempt corporation. Our office is located at 62 Berkeley Street, Boston, MA 02116. (617) 426-4469, (617) 426-2723 (FAX), (617) 426-0332 (TTY/TDD). Second-class postage paid at Boston, Mass. Annual subscription rate for individuals is \$39. Institutional rate: \$55. ISSN: [0147-0728].

Member Gay and Lesbian Press Association, New England Press Association, Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press, COSMEP. GCN is included in the Alternative Press Index, published quarterly by the Alternative Press Center, Inc., Box 33109, Baltimore, MD 21218. Volumes 1-15 of GCN are available on microfilm for \$40/volume, \$550/complete set. Write GCN/Microfilm for more information.

Postmaster: Send address changes to: Gay Community News, 62 Berkeley St., Boston, MA 02116.



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It's my party

By Jim Roche

At the former Vatican exhibit in Flushing Meadows, New York, where during the 1964 World's Fair Michelangelo's *Pieta* was exhibited, it's like being on the set of Pee Wee's Playhouse. Absurd. Make believe. The set is cheaper than Pee Wee's, more bizarre, because it's real life, and there's no Jane Pauley here to explain it to us. It's here that local "seer" Veronica Leuken has her public devotions, where she tells her faithful followers from everywhere that the Virgin Mary speaks directly to her and has let her know that, "until homosexuals change their ways and repent...AIDS will never be cured." She claims to have visions, even, during a recent heart attack, to have ventured to hell and returned. She and her followers have made homosexuals a special interest, through condemnations, curing of gays and lesbians, and confrontations with gay groups during parades and marches. She speaks these words of hatred against gays and lesbians on the very spot that housed the most famous representation of her patron, the Virgin Mary, Michelangelo's *Pieta*. Michelangelo, who today is himself considered a gay icon. The incongruity doesn't faze her but it has come to the attention of another group of New Yorkers. Veronica's group, who set up a complete church with nearly life-size plaster statues, banners, lawn chairs, candles, loud speakers, numbered offering envelopes and devotional boxes, uses this public park without a permit and against city, state and federal laws every week. There's also a large box just for miracle requests. That's the largest box to be seen. Together they recite the rosary and pray for miracles, including the curing of homosexuals. By eight o'clock over 350 have arrived by foot, subway, chartered bus and car. Every year Veronica and her "Baysiders," as they're called, send an aggressive contingent to harass and jeer at marchers in New York's gay and lesbian pride day parade. They carry placards, scream and holler death wishes and more at the gay and lesbian marchers. They claim AIDS is God's revenge on homosexuals. Tonight the tables are going to be turned.

Veronica and rosary crew aren't alone in the park; QUEER NATION, a group of New Yorkers devoted to fighting homophobia and working for gay and lesbian visibility, are holding what they've chosen to call their "Rosary Zap." Some associated with the group and many others outside QUEER NATION fear that this action, or any action against a religious service, will only draw negative publicity as the ACT UP protest at Saint Patrick's Cathedral had last year where, without ACT UP approval, a small group disrupted the Mass and a communion Host was desecrated. Through spokespersons ACT UP as a group was quick to dissociate itself from that action, but many within ACT

UP felt the church deserved it. "What about the sacrilege against women and gays that the church supports?" they ask. Those in the gay and lesbian community who continue to be concerned, worry that the apparent anti-Catholic or anti-church slant of this zap will be all that is picked up by the media, and that the call for justice and gay and lesbian visibility will get lost in the ensuing antagonisms. Some conservative publication such as *The Advocate* and writers like Dave Walters have condemned such actions as counterproductive and divisive. QUEER NATION gives them a lot to work with if that's the way they want to report the story.

As QUEER NATION arrives, they break into chants and cat calls every time the prayer group says, "Blessed are the fruits." "We're here, we're queer, we're fabulous, get used to us," and "Veronica is the anti-Christ, go back to hell where you came from." QUEER NATION members run around outside the service which is encircled by park department barriers, breaking down the perimeter, eluding the police who seem unprepared. They turn over the barricades, scream "You say don't fuck, we say fuck you." Several members fall to the ground and simulate anal sex. Others throw leaflets at the crowd, fly them as paper airplanes into the service and scream "shame, shame, shame." Later the protesters hold a kiss-in, more simulated oral and anal sex and suddenly at 9:30, just as police are preparing to make arrests, simply wave goodbye and leave.

Some in more conservative gay and lesbian groups ask, "Is this acceptable? Aren't we hurting ourselves by alienating more people?" This isn't the first time a minority group has been questioned, or questioned itself, about its tactics. Anti-gay and -lesbian bias related attacks are on the upswing, and to many it's because groups like ACT UP and QUEER NATION have brought visibility to the gay and lesbian civil rights movement. Even within the community itself there is a backlash. *The Advocate* continues to push their agenda of assimilation based on monetary standing -- let's buy our way into acceptability. Dave Walters has even called for gay and lesbian groups to stop opposing ROTC programs, as ROTC, he says, gives closeted gays and lesbians a way to serve their country. *The Advocate* and similar gay papers continually complain about the use of the words fag, homo and queer which this new breed of activist uses to describe itself. In his recent confrontation with ACT UP the editor of Washington's *Blade* called ACT UP a "bunch of brown shirts." Others, like New York's *OUTWEEK* take the opposite position, always willing to use the word fag, queer and homo in their writing, declaring the community's identity will be determined

by the community itself. Just as Black is Beautiful we are PROUD TO BE GAY!, proud to be QUEER (the name QUEER NATION was chosen by the group because it was thought to be less gender specific than gay). Gays and lesbians are finally starting to control the language that describes them, the first step in developing self-identity.

In cities like New York, where a call went out to boycott the gay New York Native and in Washington where ACT UP occupied the offices of *The Washington Blade*, or San Francisco where *The Sentinel* is under similar pressure, the gay and lesbian press is under attack from activist groups who want to make clear that there is no going back. Assimilationist views aren't welcome any more. Many have grown tired of ACT UP's unwillingness to self-identify as a gay and lesbian group. QUEER NATION's call is "We're here, we're Queer, we're fabulous, get used to it." Their T Shirts, advertised on their answering machine, have left behind the maybe gay-maybe not slogans of ACT UP like "Silence = Death" and demand visibility with words that leave very little to be imagined or questioned. They scream out QUEER, FAG, a map of America with the words QUEER NATION written across it, there's a Gay Bart and one warning that from now on QUEERS BASH BACK. Further evidence of this attitude can be seen in New York's Greenwich Village where a new organization called "Pink Panthers" has formed to protect gays from the ever-increasing bias attacks. Criticism that gay AIDS organizations, who have co-opted themselves by giving up Board control to homophobic minorities and corporate representatives in the name of coalition building, is being heard more frequently throughout the country and ACT UP and AIDS activism is no longer the only concern for gays and lesbians interested in making significant changes.

QUEER NATION has started to catch on. As with the previous flourishing of AIDS-related groups, we can expect to see the growth of these direct action, pro-gay and lesbian identified political groups. There are now QUEER NATION groups in Boston, Washington, San Francisco, Rhode Island, Ithaca, Philadelphia, Montreal and England. QUEER NATION Philadelphia has even called for a QUEER NATION Constitutional Convention to be held there next year. But a lot of gays and lesbians who don't live in large metropolitan areas, who live in less liberal areas where being gay or lesbian can cost you your job or your life, are scared. Afraid that there will be a backlash from middle America. The fear is that actions and zaps like QUEER NATION is doing now ultimately get fence-sitting liberals to take sides, but it will be the wrong side. Even more, that those homophobes who have been

quiet because we mind our own business will finally speak out and strike out. Some think it's already happening. QUEER NATION, some hold, is only going to alienate our straight supporters (like the infamous "I HATE STRAIGHTS" leaflet handed out during the Gay and Lesbian Pride Day march in New York that caused some hetero members of ACT UP to cry foul!).

QUEER NATION has more in store. So far they have visited New Jersey malls for "the QUEER Shopping Network," welcomed Greg Louganis to Macy's and almost weekly invade some local New York straight bar to hold a kiss-in. They've crashed hetero McSorley's Saloon, The White Horse Tavern, Flutie's and even the notorious New York skinhead bar Alcatraz. QUEER NATION has decided - whether middle America likes it or not - it's time to stand up and be counted.

These actions aren't as absurd and new, innovative or original as some would have you believe. They reflect the same techniques used by Blacks who refused to move to the back of the bus, marched into small restaurants and ordered coffee when the sign said "whites only" and drank from fountains that were restricted to "WHITE" only. They are meant to antagonize. They are meant to put gay and lesbian rights, pride and visibility first. Over and above coalitions, assimilation or satisfying those in power. The theme of the Rosary Zap was simple, QUEER NATION wasn't there to change minds, they weren't there to negotiate. As one member said "We aren't here to change minds but to give warning." Their signs and leaflets, cheers and jeers said it simply, "You spoil our party and we'll spoil yours!" That night on local news, this time at least, that one theme did get across in the broadcast.

We have to defend ourselves. Stand up for ourselves. Fight back, bash back, kick, holler, and scream. We have to let bigots know that if they want to be a bigot they have to do it publicly, in the open and to expect a fight. QUEER NATION's warning is an American warning, it says DON'T TREAD ON ME. They aren't willing to negotiate or wait, and don't care what you think. They don't intend to change minds, they only intend to change behaviors. As one protester said, "All we want to do is hold our lover's hand in public." QUEER NATION wants to see just that become possible.

Jim Roche is an ordained minister and licensed therapist teaching psychology and religion at Mercy College. He is a frequent contributor to a variety of publications serving the gay and lesbian communities.

Lesbians and cancer

Dear GCN:

Thank you for your coverage on Lesbians and Cancer in the age of AIDS (GCN, June 3-9, 1990). As a lesbian with metastatic cervical cancer, I was so excited to learn that organizing on this critical issue is something that is happening simultaneously around the country.

As a participant in the Women's Cancer Resource Center, I have found it invaluable not only for emotional support for dealing with a life-threatening illness, but a place to learn and share medical information, in order to get the best medical care possible. But the most critical support that I get from WCRC is that it has a political awareness and context that I share with them.

I was surprised that you did not print the addresses and phone numbers of the clinics so Lesbians with Cancer may be able to contact them as a resource. For your information, I am including the address of the Women's Cancer Resource Center. It is located at 3023 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, CA 94705. The phone number is 415-548-9272. Please print the other clinics' vital statistics so that they are available to all lesbians that need their services.

Thanks for the good coverage, keep it up.
Sincerely yours,
Linda Rosenfeld
Berkeley, Calif.

[Note: For more information, you can also contact the Women's Community Cancer Project at (617) 354-9888 in Cambridge, Mass. and the Mautner Project

for Lesbians with Cancer at P.O. Box 90437, Washington, D.C. 20090, (202) 332-5536.]

Situation comedy

Dear GCN:

So nice to see that someone out there in our glorious "gay community" is still using gender and race hatred to justify more of the same. Sue Hyde's letter (See GCN, July 29-Aug. 3, 1990) is a wonderful example of what I call "fuck you" politics: Gay white men should fight sexism, racism and classism, but they can go get fucked regardless because the non-white, non-male members of the "community" don't need their fucking support. Similarly, gay white men can be beaten, robbed or murdered, but these incidents are of less importance/social meaning because they are seldom race or gender related. In other words, gay white men are oppressed, but much less than members of the "gay community" who are more marginal to mainstream white, het culture.

Hyde piggishly invokes the GREAT WHITE DICK, the symbol of lesbian suffering, presumably, in an effort to lend credibility to her personal suffering. How strange that she should chastise men for that single attribute, while lamenting this society's myopic view of beauty and personal worth. Wake the fuck up! Gay white men are not always Christians, nor do they always have disposable income. There are plenty of us who are fat, have children and are physically challenged. How fucking rude and dismissive of you to expect us all to conform to a convenient stereotype just so your arguments and views can be delivered with ease!

And how fucking hypocritical of you to accuse gay white men of aspiring to white het society when it is patently obvious that you are the one counting the steps away from such "legitimacy."

In her closing arguments (best summarized as "Outing: A White Gay Male Plot"), Hyde states that "Social change and gay/lesbian liberation will take longer than resolving the plot line of a situation comedy." Oh please, Ms. Thing. You expect men like me to be clean cardboard cutouts, like sitcom characters, while reserving all the drama of theatrical stage for yourself and others like you. It seems to me that you would like to keep this particular sitcom, and the depth of your Shakespearean suffering, going for a good long time. I hope you'll forgive me if I forego your little production. It gives me (and many others) no credit for experience earned, and no respect for commitment to seeing struggle through.

In lesbian & gay solidarity,
Joe Collins
Binghamton, N.Y.

Violence against gay & lesbian prisoners

Dear GCN:

Are you sick and tired of being humiliated, discriminated against and beaten by prison authorities? I've been doing some research in the area of gay prisoners' rights and feel that it's time we band together and make a stand for justice!

Contact the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, Anti-Violence Project, 1517 U

St NW, Washington DC 20009, and request a victim complaint form and FILE IT! There's no cost whatsoever, except for the postage cost of writing the letter.

Then contact your local ACLU and explain your specific problem to them and ask for their legal assistance. Also if you would like a copy of *Rights of Gay People*, you can send \$3.95 and get one from: ACLU, 132 W. 43rd St, New York, NY 10036. It's well worth the money to learn more about your rights.

One person cannot do it all alone, but there are some people out there who would like to help, but they need to be told what's happening. Just try to remember that gay people are human too!

John Middleton
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ACT UP

Continued from page 3

"I think when we proved to be pretty mellow and didn't give them any problems, they relaxed and let us do what we wanted, as long as we stayed behind the lines everyone else was behind," he told GCN.

Although restricted in their movements by North Kingstown police, protesters garnered considerable attention from guests entering and leaving the fundraiser. They chanted and held signs bearing slogans such as "Georgie Porgie, thanks a bunch, six people died while you ate lunch," "Money for AIDS, not Grey Poupon," and "The Middle East is big today, but HIV won't go away." One of the most controversial posters at the rally read, "Free Barbara Bush; Out David Souter," a reference to the conspicuous life-long bachelorhood of Bush's recent Supreme Court nominee.

A collection of individuals protesting the U.S. presence in the Middle East held a large sign that read in part, "How did our oil get under their soil?"

ACT UP members shared the protest platform with Democratic candidate for U.S. House of Representatives Scott Wolf. According to ACT UP member Kevin Irvine, Wolf reiterated his support for AIDS funding and lesbian and gay civil rights, and expressed interest in supporting a trial needle exchange program for Rhode Island. The candidate was joined by several of his own supporters, who rallied in favor of a national energy plan.

North Kingstown residents who complained of the loudness of the protest were given ACT UP flyers and ignored.

ACT UP members present at the rally said they considered it to be a success. They also said the demonstration was important because it brought attention to the impact of AIDS outside of cities with which it is usually associated by the public, like New York or San Francisco.

"Bush has to realize," said Cohen, "that AIDS issues are important, not just for a few people, but for everyone and in every area of the country." □

Puerto Rico

Continued from page 3

future conferences." She also said it was unfair to criticize her organization for the lack of attention on issues relevant to gay men because few gay men had submitted papers to be presented at the conference.

According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control, out of a total of 139,765 cases of AIDS in the United States, 4,039 have been diagnosed in Puerto Rico. The report also indicates that Puerto Rico is second only to Washington, D.C. in its per capita rate of AIDS cases.

Activists blame these numbers to a large extent on the government, saying that part of the reason people continue to get AIDS is they do not know the disease is preventable. And how can people find out if the government won't provide clear education? asked one of the rally's participants.

A document circulated at the Aug. 8 rally called for:

- * Public education about AIDS prevention
- * Public education about safer sex techniques
- * Development of public policy without intervention from religious institutions
- * Education about treating HIV before it causes illness
- * Education about treatment for people with AIDS
- * Clear education about how HIV is transmitted
- * Education about cleaning needles for drug users

A local health department employee, who spoke on the condition of anonymity, said that the powerful influence of the Catholic church is a major obstacle in the government's efforts to combat AIDS. He cited an article in *El Nuevo Dia* which quoted Cardinal Luis Aponte Martinez as saying, "It's better to die of AIDS than to wear a condom."

"Because of this influence," said the employee, "the administration is reluctant to advocate for clear prevention messages or spending public money to pay for a disease that comes from individual behavior."

"If the governor is so committed," he asked, "why doesn't he speak out against the Cardinal?" □

Boycotts

Continued from page 1

Gant, a former mayor of Charlotte, N.C., an African-American, and a pro-choice political liberal (see GCN, May 19). Lavelle said that the latest polls show Helms and Gant running "neck and neck."

Boycott as strategy

Bill Haskell, a member of ACT UP/San Francisco, agreed with Lavelle that boycotts need time to gather momentum, but said he thought the Miller/Marlboro effort had progressed remarkably fast. He told GCN that the local chapter of the United Farm Workers, a labor union that has been conducting a boycott of California grapes for several years, called San Francisco boycott organizers to let them know how well they thought the anti-Helms campaign was going. "They told us that we've done in less than two months what they've been trying to do for five years," he said.

Waybourn also thought the boycott would have an impact on this fall's Senate race. As to whether boycotts have economic force, he said, "I don't think we'll ever know," but he also said he has no doubt that the effort was working in terms of the Helms donors' public relations. "Miller and Philip Morris are taking it on the chin," said Waybourn.

Bush said he too believed in the effectiveness of the tactic. "I'm from the generation that saw Anita Bryant get fired when we stopped drinking Florida orange juice," said Bush. Bryant, who did television commercials for Florida orange juice in the late 1970s, took a political fall when lesbian and gay communities around the U.S. denounced her campaign against a Dade County, Fla., gay rights referendum in 1977.

Haskell was optimistic as well, saying "I have great hopes." He added that he expected Philip Morris to respond to the boycott eventually, commenting, "I think that they're the kind of people who want to be accountable. My hope is that they consult with us." As for the long-term effect of the boycott, he said, "I think it could be a great victory."

□ filed from Boston

Navy

Continued from page 1

effective than head-on attempts to challenge the constitutionality of anti-gay discrimination. Activists working on dismantling the military policy, she said, see the battle as having three strategies: lobbying in Washington, trying cases in the court system and fostering activism on college campuses.

In fact, a frenzy of political activity around anti-gay discrimination in the military has enlivened campus politics in the past year. Upwards of 70 colleges and university groups have taken action against the Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC), the branch of the Army that trains future officers while they are in college.

Significantly, the faculty of the University of Wisconsin voted in December 1989 to recommend removing ROTC presence from its campuses unless the anti-gay policy is changed by 1993 (see GCN, Jan. 6).

In addition, several ROTC cadets who have disclosed their homosexuality have won concessions from the military. In May, the Navy backed down after attempting to recover all scholarship funds from two gay cadets who came out while in the service. With the assistance of openly gay Rep. Gerry Studds (D.-Mass.) and advocacy organizations, Robb Bettiker and David Carney were prevented from having to pay back the Navy (see GCN, May 19).

Mary Bonauto of Gay and Lesbian Advocates and Defenders (GLAD), who was Bettiker's lawyer, told GCN that she thought the Hilinski ruling, taken alongside the ROTC decisions and the upsurge in campus activism, indicated a shift in the political barometer. "This is clearly an encouraging sign," said Bonauto, adding that perhaps the armed forces were learning "that they can't trash lesbians and gay men anymore."

□ filed from Boston



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Gay Games III

THE THRILL OF VICTORY

BY PETER MEDOFF • PHOTOS BY CYNDI KOEBERT AND LAURA WULF

The overriding feeling of Gay Games III came through, not at closing ceremonies on August 11, but the night before as the sun was setting. After five minutes of light drizzle (the only rain during the entire sunny week), revelers at the Celebration Center were treated to a spectacular double rainbow that reached across the sky. As participants hugged each other and rejoiced, the true spirit of the Games spread through all of Vancouver.

Celebration '90: Gay Games III and Cultural Festival literally took over the city of Vancouver from August 4 to August 11, and Vancouver welcomed the Games with open arms. Over 7,500 athletes



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Boston Women's Soccer Team attend Closing Ceremonies

Team Boston, 280 strong, won its share of medals and was a big hit with many of the Gay Games participants. Marching into opening ceremonies with bright pink t-shirts, black cardigans and black sweatpants, team Boston quickly became a crowd favorite. Both in individual and team competition, Bostonians brought home many medals and made many new friends.

In team sports, the co-ed "Swish and Fish" softball team won a gold medal as did the women's fast pitch team. The women's "Peppermints from Hell" volleyball team took the gold. The men's

Continued on page 11

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Dykes to watch out for



Team Boston

Continued from centerspread

"Snowpeas" volleyball team won a silver medal. Teams in men's softball, men's basketball and co-ed ice hockey just missed winning medals, coming in fourth.

In individual competition, Paul Rusevsky won a gold medal in wrestling, while teammate William Jacques picked up a bronze. In the mixed pairs physique competition, Cybil Legger and R.J. Spina captured the bronze.

Members of Boston's swim team won a host of individual medals. Craig Mallory won multiple gold and silver medals; Lisa Hefley won two golds; and Carol Katz picked up a pair of silvers and a bronze.

Among the winners in track and field, Charlie Farrington won four gold medals and Cyndi Koebert won a silver in the women's 10K. Barry Friswold took the silver medal in the marathon, while Alden Clark came in fourth in his division. Ed Salvato won the gold medal for race walking.

Gay Games III

Continued from centerspread
from 30 countries participated in the Games, and by all accounts everyone who participated came away a winner.

The Games began on the night of Saturday August 4, as 7,500 athletes marched into the giant domed B.C. Place Stadium. Over 20,000 spectators cheered them on and performed a five-minute rendition of "the wave" while teams marched in country-by-country and state-by-state formations. The groups sported a wide array of colorful uniforms.

Popular lesbian comedienne Robin Tyler emceed the ceremonies, during which she lashed out at the few fundamentalists who hovered around the Games throughout the week ("I don't mind that they're born again, but why do they have to be reborn as themselves?"). After numerous local political figures addressed the crowd, gay Black South African Simon Nkoli sent a roar through the stadium when he promised that "a free South Africa would one day take part in the Gay Games."

The torch that officially opened the Games was lit by Brent Nicholson Earle who had just arrived in Vancouver to com-

plete his "Rainbow Run Against AIDS," a two-month, 1,000-mile marathon from San Francisco to Vancouver. Earle hoped to raise \$50,000 from his efforts and although he arrived with kidney problems and sore feet, he wore a giant smile as he entered the stadium to a standing ovation.

The sports events over the next six days were as diverse as the athletes who participated in them. Events were spread throughout Vancouver, utilizing public parks, high-school and university gymnasiums and impressive facilities for swimming and track and field. There were many highlights:

In swimming, 51-year-old Mark Mealiffe set two world records for his age group in the 50-meter and 100-meter butterfly. Former U.S. Olympic swimmer, New Yorker Bruce Hayes, won several gold medals. The swimming events were capped off by the wonderfully campy "pink Flamingo relay," in which participants dressed up like mermaids, witches, multiple Carmen Mirandas and Ninja Turtles and carried across the pool plastic pink flamingos strapped to their heads. Team New York — some 50 strong — brought the 1,000-plus fans to their feet with their pack of Marlo Thomases as That Girl.

In tennis, spectators were treated to some spectacular play by Team Phoenix members Carolyn Lane and Naomi Price. Both Price and Lane were former touring professionals who had participated in the Wimbledon championships. They easily came away with the Gold in women's doubles and Lane also took the gold in the women's singles tournament.

Volleyball had the largest number of participants registered, over 250 teams, which caused massive headaches for competition organizers. With so many teams, advanced scheduling proved impossible, resulting in most volleyball players camping out at the volleyball courts all week. Newton Ho, liaison for Team Boston's volleyball squad explained the popularity of gay volleyball this way: "A lot of us [on the team] moved away from sports when we were young, but we had to stay fit. Volleyball is ideal because it's a beach sport, there's no tackling and it's dignified. Plus, it's all in the wrist."

One of the most popular competitions

Continued on back page



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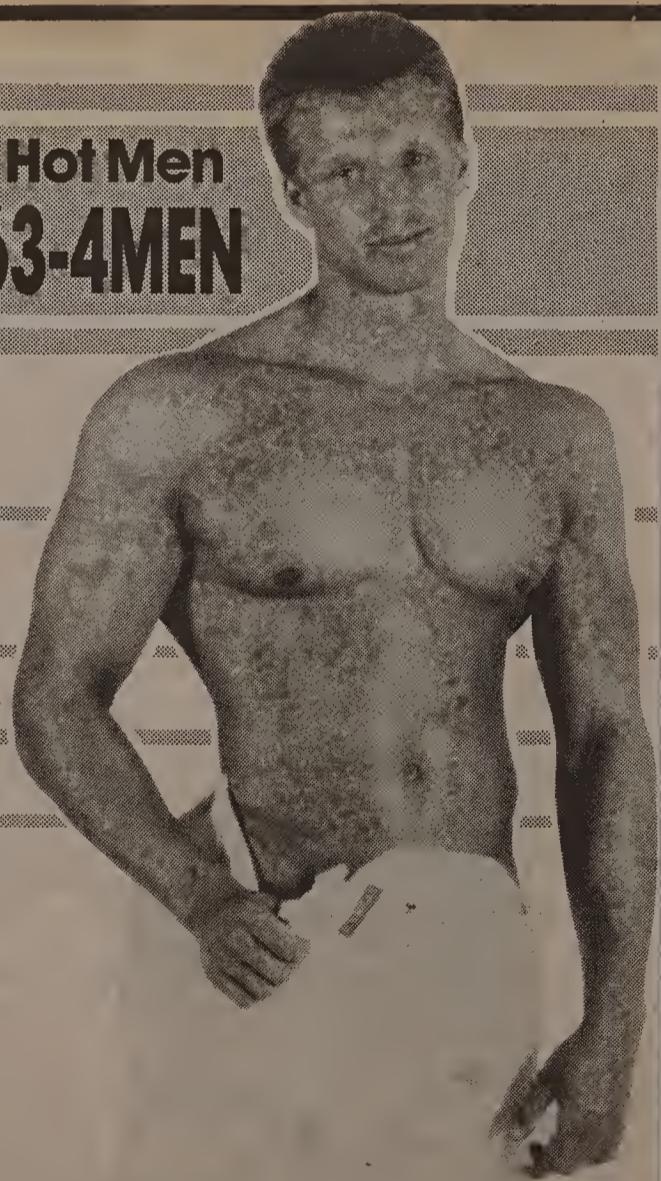
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BLACK/OUT

Special 10th Anniv. edition of Black/Out now available. This bi/annual magazine from the National Coalition for Black Lesbians and Gays contains essays, reviews, poetry, news and announcements concerning the Black Lesbian and Gay community. Sample copy \$6 plus \$1 postage. 1 year subscription (2 issues) \$10 to BLACK/OUT, c/o NCBLG, 19641 West Seven Mile, Detroit, MI 48219. (ex)

ORGANIZATIONS

OLDER LESBIAN ENERGY

Social and support group for women over 40. P.O. Box 1214, East Arlington, MA 02174. (15.48)

BLACK AND WHITE MEN TOGETHER
Multiracial group for all people. Call (415) 431-1976 or write BWMT, suite 140, 584 Castro St. SF, CA, 94114. (16.1)

BOSTON ALLIANCE OF GAY AND LESBIAN YOUTH

Social support group for youth 22 and under. Wed. night general meeting from 7:30-9pm. New persons meeting at 6:00. Women's meeting at 6:45. Call 1-800-42-BAGLY for info. (15.32)

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Intergenerational Love Support Group. World wide news, art, opinions. Application, information free. Bulletin \$1.00 NAMBLA, P.O. Box 174, New York, NY 10018(7)

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Prisoners Seeking Friends



I am Angela Davis, 26 yrs old, but not the Angela Davis who knows a lot about the Black Panthers, which I am too young to know a lot about. But I'll be glad to write any free world person who would like to write back. I enjoy many things, write poetry, love to dance. Race or color doesn't matter, because I'm like Betty Saul, I love them all. Angela DAVIS, A498084, box 8540 (164), Pembroke Pines FL 33024

GF, 28, licensed beautician, seeking friendship and excitement in a caring relationship with another GF 21-45. Please reply with photo if possible. I can't write prisoners. Fay FOSTER, PO Box 337, PeeWee Valley KY 40056.

Sweet, young, sexy, GF, doing time needs to hear from dominate females. I know my true love is out there somewhere. Please find me. I need you. Barby ORR, Box 7007, Carson City NV 89702

I'm a 27 yr old dominant female looking for sincere females. My interests are football, dancing, lifting weights and camping. Lois WHITE, B151976, Box 453, PO Box 8540, Pembroke Pines FL 33024.

Loving pre-operative male to female TS looking for gay men to mate with (smile). Have high cheek bones and look more like a girl than most girls. Am coming home next year. AKA Angelica Leigh Van Vorren, write to me and love me. Richard HALL, 185-949, 1576 W. Bluewater Hwy, Ionia MI 48846.

23 yr old Cuban mixed with Black. Feminine. Not bad looking. Very down to earth. Seeking a serious friendship. I write Spanish and English, whichever is easiest. Please write soon. Rolando GOMEZ, 53157, 2605 State St, Salem OR 97310

I am in a small hot cell here 24 hrs a day and would like to have something to take my mind out of here. I'm a Black gay prisoner, 34, and very much into safe sex, so please write and let's talk. Thank you, Emmette MITCHELL, C-22649 (L318), Box 2000, Vacaville CA 95696.

I'm locked up looking for friends on the outside. My interests are riding Harleys, music, traveling. I'm 37 and have long dark hair. Belarmino MARTINEZ, 13242, Box 250, Draper UT 84020.

Tired of being used. Lookin for a friend who is willing to converse and build a friendship that will blossom long before any possibilities of parole in '97. I long for the outdoors and the outdoor type. If you are willing to write a soft and caring GM who will stay interested for as long as you are, write James DRAKE, WJCF, 151849, 100 Warrior Lane, Bessemer AL 35023

Lonely Black man would like to correspond with someone willing to reach out and share a bit of themselves, as I am willing to do the same. TVs and TSSs, come on write the owner of a lonely heart. Please send SASE (embossed only) to get a faster reply. Rodney CONLEY, 183-452, Box 45699, Lucasville OH 45699.

Looking for sincere friends and a possible relationship. I enjoy writing, reading, and meeting people. Please write. James BRYANT, 362106, Rt 2, Box 20, Midway TX 75852

I'm a Black Bi male who would like to write to anyone who'd like to write. I've been in prison for a little over 17 years and I'm lonely, so please write. I can't write other prisoners unless they don't have a prison number, then I can. Right now I'm in the 'hole' because of my being gay. I'll send you [GCN] some poems as soon as I get out of here [isolation] and back to 'general population'. David HOOVER, 28852-054, Box 1000, Lewisburg PA 17837.

I am very lonely and looking for someone that is lonely like me and wants to write. So I hope you'll write me back and let me know if there is someone to write. My friends call me 'Slim Goodie'. Thank you. Reginald ROBINSON, A-2188, Box 99, Pontiac IL 61764.

I enjoy GCN dearly and I'd like to correspond with someone. My interest and wisdom is worldly and conversations endless. My name is Jacky 'Tina' COLLINS, 129737-A, Fountain 38, Atmore AL 36503.

CALENDAR

Boston • Wednesday, September 12 • UNITED FRUIT COMPANY FIFTH ANNIVERSARY GALA.

10 pm - 2 am \$5.00 for info 421-9595.

Calendar listings must be received by the Monday before the week of the event. Photos encouraged. Please specify if event is or is not wheelchair accessible and/or sign language interpreted. Please use our format as a guide for listings and put each event on a separate sheet. All listings must be typed. Please note that listings are printed only as space allows. We regret that we cannot print every submission. No phone calls, please!

1 SATURDAY

Boston • NAMES Project/Boston General Meeting. ASL interpreted and wheelchair accessible. Piemonte Room, Boston City Hall (use the Congress St entrance). 7 p.m. Info 4519003.

2 SUNDAY

Somerville • GLOSS Monthly Potluck. (GLOSS = Gays and Lesbians of Somerville & Surroundings.) Info: 628-2643.

4 TUESDAY

Boston • Alternative Women's Softball League. 8 to 10 p.m. Room 202K, The Center, 338 Newbury St. Info: 247-2927.

Cambridge • Swing, Foxtrot, and Waltz Lessons for Lesbians, Gay Men, and Friends. Beginner, level 1. Week 1 of 4. YMCA at Central Sq., 820 Mass. Ave. 8 to 9 p.m. Info: 859-9455.

5 WEDNESDAY

Boston • Fundraiser for Attorney General James Shannon. 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. The Center, 338 Newbury St. Info: 523-1414.

Boston • Boston Gay Men's Chorus Auditions. First tenors and basses particularly encouraged, but there are openings in all sections. 7 to 10 p.m. Arlington Street Church, (351 Boylston). Also 9/11. Appointments: 247-BGMC.

Boston • Stand Up For Your Love Rights. Part of the Fenway Community Health Center's Living Well Series. 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. 332 Newbury St. Info: Paul 267-0900.

Boston • The Fenway at Fenway Park. Benefit for the Fenway Community Health Center. Red Sox vs. Oakland A's at Fenway Park, followed by a party at Venus de Milo, 9 Lansdowne St. Tickets \$25. Game at 7:35 p.m. Tickets: 247-CARE.

6 THURSDAY

Dowington, PA • 14th Annual East Coast Quaker Lesbian Conference. 9/6 through 9/9. Paradise Farms Camp. Info: Anne Gair MacMichael (203) 561-5329 or Peg Brigham (802) 254-4914.

Jamaica Plain • Ballroom Dance for Lesbians, Gay Men, and Friends. 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.: Swing, Foxtrot, and Waltz (beginner, level 1). 7:30 to 8:30 p.m.: Cha Cha, Mambo, and Samba (beginner, level 1). 8:30 to 9:30 p.m.: Tango, Rumba, and Merengue (beginner, level 2). Week 1 of 4. Firehouse Arts Center, 659 Centre St. 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Info: 859-9455.

Boston • AAC Fundraising Committee Meeting. Organizing and running fundraising events for AIDS Action Committee. 7:30 p.m. AAC Offices, 131 Clarendon St. Info: 437-6200.

Boston • Beantown Softball League Meeting. 8 to 10 p.m. Room 202K, The Center, 338 Newbury St. Info: 247-2927.

7 FRIDAY

Boston • "Pro-Visions." The first New England Community Conference dedicated to the needs of the HIV service provider. Full programs available at AIDS Action Committee. 9/7 to 9/8. Park Plaza Hotel. \$75.00 registration, or free if you volunteer. Volunteering: Linda Guineo 437-6200 x283. More info or registration: Elizabeth Chadis 437-6200 x231.

Boston • The Center Film Series: "Victim." 1961 thriller about blackmail of a gay man; caused an uproar as one of the first films to portray gays as victims of society's prejudice. 8 p.m. The Center, 338 Newbury St. Info: 247-2927.

Brookline • Am Tikva Monthly Shabbat Services. Bring something sweet/dairy/veggie to share for the oneg. 8 p.m. Workmen's Circle, 1762 Beacon Street. Info: 782-8894.

8 SATURDAY

Boston • Girth & Mirth Club of NE: Touch or Go Down Social. The Center, 338 Newbury St. Info: Dennis 387-0762 or Rick 846-8442.

Boston • PrideTime (Gay Boston): "Celebration 90: The Vancouver Gay Games" - with Jim Voltz. The inside perspective. Boston Neighborhood Network, channels A3 and A8. 7:30 to 8:00 p.m.

9 SUNDAY

Provincetown • Third Annual Provincetown Harbor Swim for Life, an AIDS benefit. Swimmer registration, pledge sheets, and info: P.O. Box 819, Ptown 02657, or (508) 487-3684.

Boston • Lesbian and Gay Neighbors of Jamaica Plain Potluck/Barbeque. Bring food to grill and/or share and a non-alcoholic beverage. 4:30 to 7:00 p.m. Info: 524-8070.

10 MONDAY

Newton • Lesbian School Teachers/Administrators Potluck. 6:30 p.m. Info and directions: 492-1822.

Boston • Ballroom Dance for Lesbians, Gay Men, and Friends. 7:00 to 8:15 p.m.: Lambada and Dirty Dancing (beginner, level 1). 8:15 to 9:30 p.m.: Swing Intensive (beginner, level 1). Week 1 of 3. UMass Boston, 621 Stuart Street. Info: 859-9455.

Cambridge • PrideTime (Gay Boston): "Celebration 90: The Vancouver Gay Games" - with Jim Voltz. The inside perspective. Cambridge Cable Channel 19. 7 p.m.

Boston • Center Lecture Committee Planning Meeting. All welcome to plan and implement the Gay & Lesbian Center's lecture series. 8 p.m. Room 202K, The Center, 338 Newbury Street. Info: 247-2927.

11 TUESDAY

Boston • Boston Gay Men's Chorus Auditions. First tenors and basses particularly encouraged, but there are openings in all sections. 7 to 10 p.m. First Baptist Church, 110 Comm. Ave. Also 9/11. Appointments: 247-BGMC.

12 WEDNESDAY

Boston • Downtown Lesbian Brown Bag Lunch in the Park. Meet at 12:30. Info: Julie 725-3562.

Boston • National Leather Association Meeting. 6 to 10 p.m. Room 202K, The Center, 338 Newbury St. Info: 247-2927.

Boston • MGLPC Monthly Membership Meeting. (MGLPC = Mass. Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus.) 6:30 p.m. Arlington Street Church (use the Boylston St entrance).

Salem • "The Politics of Outing." An informal discussion sponsored by North Shore Gay & Lesbian Alliance. Bring a beverage and munchies to share. 7 p.m. 11 Dalton Parkway. Info: (508) 745-3848.

Boston • Lesbian and Gay Neighbors of Jamaica Plain Dinner at Doyle's. Look for the Neighbors in the rear of the center room. 7:30 p.m. Doyle's, Washington Street, J.P. Info: 327-5669.

13 THURSDAY

Boston • "Wholistic Health as a Way of Life." A general view of the Fenway Community Health Center's Wholistic Health series, focusing on the concepts of balance and energy flow and their effect on health. Boston Living Center, 140 Clarendon St, 7th Floor. 6 to 8 p.m. \$5, or \$40 for 11-week series. Info and registration: 267-0900.

Jamaica Plain • Ballroom Dance for Lesbians, Gay Men, and Friends. 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.: Swing, Foxtrot, and Waltz (beginner, level 1). 7:30 to 8:30 p.m.: Cha Cha, Mambo, and Samba (beginner, level 1). 8:30 to 9:30 p.m.: Tango, Rumba, and Merengue (beginner, level 2). Week 2 of 4. Firehouse Arts Center, 659 Centre St. 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Info: 859-9455.

14 FRIDAY

Boston • AIDS Awareness Training. An introduction to AIDS and AIDS-related issues, including a medical presentation, people with AIDS speaking of their experiences, and an introduction to AIDS Action Committee. Info: Giulia Norton 437-6200 x269.



UNITED FRUIT CO., 1987

15 SATURDAY

Boston • Massage Your Way to Health. Fenway Community Health Center Living Well Series. With Arnie Katz. \$5 per person. 338 Newbury Street. 10 a.m. to 6 pm. Pre-register at 267-0900.

Salem • North Shore Gay and Lesbian Alliance Community Potluck Dinner. Bring a main dish (last name A-F), salad or vegetable (G-L), appetizer (M-R), or dessert (S-Z). Grace Church, 385 Essex Street. 6:30 p.m. Info: (508) 745-3848.

SUNDAYS

Boston • The Gay Dating Show. WUNR 1600AM. 10:30pm-2:30am. Lesbians and gay men.

Boston • ALATEEN Group open to lesbian, gay, and bisexual youth, 22 and under. 338 Newbury Street, rm. 202K. 6pm-7:30 p.m. Info: Dave 6292518 or Frank 666-8912.

Somerville • GLOSS: Gays and Lesbians of Somerville and Surroundings. Monthly potluck. 71 Union Sq. 6 p.m. First Sunday of each month. Info: Lisa, 6282532.

Beverly • North Shore Lesbian/Gay Parenting Support Group. Meets 1st Sun. of each month. First Parish Unitarian Church. 225 Cabot St. 6:30p.m. Info: 5935252.

MONDAYS

Boston • Coalition for Lesbian and Gay Rights holds biweekly planning meeting. The Center, 338 Newbury Street. 7 p.m. Info: 776-6956.

Boston • Gay Men Considering Parenting. 8 week group sponsored by Fenway Community Health Center. Presentations and discussion. 7 to 9 p.m. 332 Newbury Street. Not wheelchair accessible; ASL interpretation on request. Pre-registration required. Info: Robb 267-0900 or Jason 522-2289.

Worcester • AIDS Project Worcester. A support group for family, friends, concerned others dealing with HIV. 305 Shrewsbury St. 7:30 p.m. Info: (508) 7553773.

Boston • Monday Night Rap Group. Talk to others living with HIV. 38 Appleton St. 7:30p.m. Info: 6940964.

Cambridge • Lesbian Rap Group. The Women's Center. 46 Pleasant St. 8:10 p.m. Info: 3548807.

TUESDAYS

Providence, RI • ACT UP/Rhode Island. Call for meeting place (401) 4614191.

Framingham • Framingham Gay and Lesbian Youth Group. People 22 and under, meets 1st and 3rd Tuesday each month. Civic League Bldg., 214 Concord St. 6 to 7:30 p.m. Info: write P.O. Box 426, S. Framingham, MA 01701.

Boston • Boston Coalition for Black Lesbians and Gays. 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month. Harriet Tubman House. 6:30 p.m. Info: 8252610.

Boston • ACT UP/Boston meets to confront the AIDS crisis. The Living Center, YWCA, 140 Clarendon St. 7 p.m. Info: 49ACT UP.

Worcester • Support Group for HIV+ Gay/Bisexual Men and Their Significant Others. Closed meeting. AIDS Project Worcester. 305 Shrewsbury St. 7:30 p.m. Info: (508) 7553773.

Arlington • Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays meets on the second Tuesday of every month at First Parish Unitarian Church, 630 Mass. Ave. 7:15 p.m. Info: 5472440 or (508) 5625807.

Boston • Lesbian and Gay Freedom Trail Band Rehearsals. No audition necessary. Mass College of Art, Longwood and Brookline Ave. 7:15 p.m. Info: 2660628.

SATURDAYS

Boston • Lesbian Fun and Games. Smoke and alcohol-free. 338 Newbury St. 7 to 10 p.m. the third Saturday of each month. \$2 donation.

ONGOING

Boston • Filene's Charity Benefit Day for Groups Including the Lesbian and Gay Community Center. Tickets will be on sale at the Center, 338 Newbury Street, through 9/7 for a benefit day to occur at the new Filene's grand opening in Cambridge 9/13. Tickets or info: the Center 247-2927 or Filene's Special Events 357-2732.

Boston • AAC "Dancing in Time" (Registration). Register now and begin collecting pledges for a five-hour dance-a-thon to benefit AIDS ACTION Committee. Hynes Convention Center Ballroom. September 30. 4 p.m. to 9 p.m. Registration or more info: 2666906.

Marblehead • North Shore Gay and Lesbian Alliance Annual Auction. Time and talent are needed to help organize NSGLA's most significant fundraiser; other donations are welcome. Auction to be held 10/14. Info: (508) 9272903.

Gay Games III

Continued from page 11

during the week was the men's and women's physique contest. Held in a vintage Vancouver theatre, sweaty muscles were paraded on stage to the cheers and screams of the packed house. In particular, the winners of the pairs contest, Robert Head and Robert John Walton of New Zealand, brought the house down with their gorgeous bodies and a beautiful routine that was set to the music of "That's What Friends Are For."

As the week progressed, more and more athletes could be seen sporting their medals as they took in the fun and games that engulfed the city. And at the end, all athletes received medals for participating. For many, this was the first time in their lives that they had been around so many gay people. Garry Demarest, who won a gold medal in the triathlon, came from Traverse City, Michigan (pop. 21,000), the only participant from the northern portion of that state. "It's great. I want to go up and meet everyone," said Demarest. "I've been looking forward to this for six months. I love the attitude here. Everyone participates and everyone is so friendly."

Ian Sutherland, a tennis player from Toronto, was equally excited. "I'm generally apathetic, but this has been really invigorating," he said as he watched one of his Toronto teammates go down in straight sets in the tennis competition. The feeling of excitement and joy was felt by nearly all participants and spectators.

But these Games produced far more than sports competition. Cultural events abounded throughout the Games. So packed was the official cultural festival that many of its participants never even witnessed an athletic event. The entire week was a non-stop party for all those able to fit carousing into their busy schedules. There was a "wet party" and a "splash party," a fantasy ball and a boat cruise, a Mr. and Ms. Vancouver Leather contest and a "women's hot leather night," a country-and-western dance and numerous other parties hosted by individual team delegations.

In addition, the Plaza of Nations, Vancouver's giant expo pavilion, became



WOLF



hands and "being gay." Shop keepers and taxi drivers knew what was going on and usually seemed genuinely interested in finding out more about the Games and learning competition results. One cab driver told his lesbian passengers, "I've never seen such a happy group of people. At first I was afraid that the Gay Games would bring a lot of rowdy people into town but everyone I've met has been fabulous." (Of course, the estimated \$15-\$20 million dollars brought into the city by the Games may have helped win over many of the merchants.)

Media coverage in Canada seemed to be a mixed bag (still better than the near blackout in the U.S. press). One Canadian TV station saw fit only to show croquet as an example of what the Games were all about, and several papers overplayed the insignificant opposition from right-wing fundamentalists. But as the week progressed, coverage seemed to improve as respect for the achievement of holding the Games began to grow.

Closing ceremonies, held once again at B.C. Place Stadium, was an emotion-packed celebration of the week's events. Before the ceremonies began, participants could be seen trading uniforms and hugging and kissing the many new friends made from around the world. This time, as if to show that geographic barriers that existed at the start had been broken down, athletes entered en masse, marching with new friends and new romances arm-in-arm.

In fact, Vancouver organizers pulled off the largest international sporting event of the year in a nearly flawless manner. Contrary to earlier predictions, everyone requesting hosted housing was able to secure it. Very few complaints could be heard throughout the week. Perhaps the only misfortune was a \$140,000 debt at the end of the Games. While organizers are trying to raise the funds from the City of Vancouver, they are anxiously looking for any and all donations to help defray the debt.

Some controversy emerged during the week. A handful of right-wing protestors could occasionally be seen at a few events. Anti-gay graffiti, sprayed on the walls of B.C. Place Stadium, was removed by city workers within hours, while sporadic verbal harassment was experienced by some participants. Still, the fundamental themes were of being out and being proud. Lesbians and gay men could be seen all over the city holding

For many, the week was a once-in-a-lifetime experience. Participants swelled with pride and satisfaction whether on the field, in the stands or on the dance floor. Bob Isnor, a member of the Team Vancouver swim team summed up the week for many when he said, "A lot of gay people don't have a good sense of identity. Coming to an event like this gives us a great sense of gay pride. This is where gay people learn to love themselves." I can promise you one thing, Vancouver will never be the same.

On to the Big Apple in 1994

To a chorus of "New York, New York," the International Federation of Gay Games announced at the Closing Ceremonies that the 1994 Gay Games would be held in New York City. Competing with Sydney and Amsterdam, organizers felt that one more year was necessary on the North American continent before the Games would be strong enough to survive a trip across the ocean. □

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